Bryant Bolds II

“Summary of Hispanic Theater”

Hispanic theater first began with Chicano theater in 1567 as the Spanish missions put on plays that focused on religion. They used the plays as a means of converting non-Christians and supporting the sermons and lessons they had been preaching. As time progressed other forms of Hispanic theater began to arise in America for various reasons whether due to unfair treatment of the Hispanic population by Fidel Castro, unfair treatment of their Vietnam Veterans, the unfair treatment of their farmers, or their unfair treatment by society. Along with the content of the plays shifting towards addressing these topics the performances themselves shifted to accommodate the shifting society. The actors began to speak “Spanglish”, a mixture of Spanish and English, or they would create separate shows one in English and one in Spanish. Throughout history, Hispanic Theater has actively represented its community and its plight, and it will continue to do so as long as the community continues to support the art.